5:04-cv-60184-MOB-WC Doc # 1 Filed 08/26/04 Pg 1 of 25 25 ID 1

RECEIPT NUMBER 37158

Exhibits A-E

### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN SOUTHERN DIVISION

ORIGINAL

LEONARD JONES AND JAMES E. WHITE

Individuals, Plaintiffs, JUDGE: Battani, Marianne O.
DECK: S. Division Civil Deck
DATE: 08/26/2004 @ 13:12:36
CASE NUMBER: 5:04CV60184

CMP LEONARD JONES ET AL V MARY J

BLIGE ET AL (DQH)

ν.

MARY J. BLIGE, ANDRE ROMELL YOUNG p/k/a DR. DRE,
BRUCE MILLER, CAMARA KAMBON, ASIAH LEWIS, MAGISTRATE JUDGE CAPEL,
LUCHANA N. LODGE, MELVIN BRADFORD, MICHAEL ELIZONDO
UNIVERSAL-MCA MUSIC PUBLISHING, A Division of Universal
Studios, UNIVERSAL MUSIC GROUP INC. in its own right and as successor
in interest to MCA RECORDS, INC. AND JOHN DOES 1 THROUGH\_10

Jointly and Severally, Defendants.	S. DIST EAST DET	.04 AL	
Gregory J. Reed (P24750) GREGORY J. REED & ASSOCIATES, PC	0017-1 01811. ROHT-1	ն 26	
1201 Bagley Detroit, MI 48226 (313) 961-3580	FSG HCH PSG	P1:19	C
(313) 901-3380	,".	•	/

### COMPLAINT FOR COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT, UNFAIR COMPETITION AND UNJUST ENRICHMENT/DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiffs, Leonard Jones and James E. White by their counsel, Gregory J. Reed & Associates, P.C. complain and allege the following causes of action against Defendants:

### INTRODUCTION

1. This case involves the Defendants' blatant and unauthorized use of portions of Plaintiffs' preexisting musical composition, "Party Ain't Crunk" in a subsequently created musical composition, "Family Affair" which Defendants allege to have written and have manufactured, distributed and sold since the 2001 calendar year.

### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 2. This is an action for copyright infringement arising under the Copyright Act of the 1976, 17 U.S.C.§§ 101, et. seq. ("The Copyright Act") unfair competition and unjust enrichment.
- 3. This Court has exclusive jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1338 (a) (copyright and original jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §1331 (federal question) This Court also has jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 28 U.S.C. §1338 (b) (unfair competition). The Court has supplemental jurisdiction over the state claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.
  - 4. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391 (b) and §1400.

#### **PARTIES**

- 5. Plaintiff, Leonard Jones is a musical songwriter, producer/composer and artist conducting business in the City of Detroit, State of Michigan.
- 6. Plaintiff, James E. White a.k.a. Jim White is a songwriter and producer conducting business in the City of Detroit, State of Michigan with Leonard Jones.
- 7. Leonard Jones and James E. White are collectively referred to a "Plaintiffs" throughout the remainder of this complaint.
- 8. Defendant Mary J. Blige is a performer, recording artist and songwriter residing in Bergen County, New Jersey and conducting business in Detroit, Michigan.
- 9. Defendant Andre Romell Young (p.k.a. Dr. Dre) is a producer, songwriter and recording artist residing in Los Angeles County, California, conducting business in Detroit, Michigan.
  - 10. Defendant Bruce Miller is a songwriter, conducting business in Detroit, Michigan.

- 11. Defendant Camara Kambon is a songwriter, conducting business in Detroit, Michigan.
  - 12. Defendant Asiah Lewis is a songwriter, conducting business in Detroit, Michigan.
- 13. Defendant Luchana N. Lodge is a songwriter, conducting business in Detroit, Michigan.
- 14. Defendant Melvin Bradford is a songwriter, conducting business in Detroit, Michigan.
- 15. Defendant Michael Elizondo is a songwriter, conducting business in Detroit, Michigan.
- 16. Defendant Universal-MCA Music Publishing is a California corporation, qualified to do business and doing business in the State of Michigan. Defendant Universal-MCA Music Publishing is music publishing company.
- 17. Defendant Universal Music Group, Inc. is a California corporation qualified to do business and doing business in the State of Michigan. At all times relevant to this action Defendant Universal Music Group, Inc. owned MCA Records, Inc. a California corporation Currently, Defendant Universal Music Group, Inc. is a successor in interest to MCA Records, Inc. a music record company.
- 18. The true names and capacities of defendants DOES 1 through 10, whether individual, corporate, associate or otherwise are unknown to Plaintiff, who therefore sues such defendants by fictitious names, Plaintiffs will amend their complaint to show their true names and capacities when they have been ascertained. Plaintiff alleges that each Defendant designated in this complaint as JOHN DOES 1 through 10, was in some manner, a factor in causing Plaintiff's damages alleged in this complaint.

### FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 19. Leonard Jones is the owner and creator of the musical composition, "Party Ain't a Party" and provided the song work-product to be used for creating "Party Ain't Crunk" by Jim White from Leonard Jones' "Party Ain't a Party" by mutual consent between the parties.
- 20. On "Party Ain't Crunk", Plaintiff James White, copyright claimant, registered "Party Ain't Crunk" under Benevolent Vol. I with the U.S. Copyright Office under Registration Number PAU 2-595-487. (Exhibit A) Plaintiff Leonard Jones also has copyright and publishing interests in "Party Ain't Crunk" pursuant to an agreement with Plaintiff James White.
- 21. Sometime prior to May 30, 2001, Plaintiff James White submitted a copy of the musical recording Benevolent Vol. I comprised of "Party Ain't Crunk" to MCA Records for them to consider recording it for one of their artists.
- 22. On or about May 30, 2001 Joann from MCA Records returned the recording of "Party Ain't Crunk" as a part of Benevolent Vol. I recording to Plaintiff James E. White by U.S. mail (Exhibit B) along with a note indicating that "MCA Records is not accepting any unsolicited material at this time." (Exhibit C)
- 23. On or about August 28, 2001 three months after Plaintiff James E. White submitted "Party Ain't Crunk" recording as a part of Benevolent Vol. I to MCA Records, Defendant Mary J. Blige recorded and released on MCA Records, Inc. an album entitled, "No More Drama," which contained a song entitled "Family Affair"
  - 24. Portions of "Party Ain't Crunk" are copied and incorporated into "Family Affair."
- 25. The credits listed in the CD package insert for "No More Drama" do not list Plaintiffs as authors or contributors to "Family Affair." (Exhibit D)

- 26. Multiple versions of the song "Family Affair" have been released worldwide. "Family Affair" is Defendant Mary J. Blige's most successful single in her 12 year career.
- 27. "No More Drama" the CD that features "Family Affair" has been certified as double platinum (2 million album sold) by the Recording industry Association of America on February 19, 2002. (Exhibit E). Defendant Universal Music Group Inc. also released "Family Affair" as a single.
- 28. Defendant Mary J. Blige released and starred in a music video related to the song "Family Affair" The video contains the same portions of "Party Ain't Crunk" as the song "Family Affair."
- 29. No credit was given to Plaintiffs in the video as having composed any music in the video.
- 30. The words and music to "Family Affair have been registered with the U.S. Copyright Office at least three times under Registration Numbers, PA -1-066-345 on December 3, 2001, PA-1-075-337 on March 18, 2002, and PA-084-893 on June 13, 2002. Each registration lists Defendants as authors and/or copyright claimants. None of the registrations give the Plaintiffs any credit for composing any of the music contained in "Family Affair."

# COUNT I (Copyright Infringement)

31. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference each allegation contained in Paragraphs 1 through 30 hereinabove and incorporate them, each and all herein by this reference.

- 32. Plaintiffs are the sole owners of the exclusive copyright to "Party Ain't Crunk."
- 33. Plaintiffs have not granted Defendants a license to reproduce, distribute, publicly perform or in any way use compile or exploit, "Party Ain't Crunk."
- 34. Defendants unlawfully and willfully copied all or a part of "Party Ain't Crunk" and incorporated it into the song "Family Affair" and the video based on that song, involving making, distributing, advertising, promoting, broadcasting, or authorizing the making, distribution, advertisement, promotion and broadcast of the song and video, selling, participating in and further such infringing acts or sharing in the proceeds there from, all infringing on Plaintiffs' copyright in "Party Ain't Crunk" [Benevloent Vol. I].
- 35. The music contained in the song "Family Affair" and the music video based on it is substantially similar to "Party Ain't Crunk.
- 36. Plaintiff's have lost substantial revenue from Defendants' unlawful and willful copying of "Party Ain't Crunk", their failure to remit to Plaintiffs their rightful share of income generated from the song "Family Affair" and their failure to obtain licenses from Plaintiffs for their uses of "Party Ain't Crunk" Plaintiffs are unaware of the exact amount of such profits derived and received by Defendants, however, they will seek leave to amend this paragraph when the amount of said profits has been ascertained
- 37. Plaintiffs are entitled to an injunction restraining Defendants, their agents and employees, and all persons acting in concert with them from engaging in any further acts in violation of copyright laws.
- 38. Defendants direct and willful acts of infringement have and will cause irreparable harm to Plaintiffs unless such conduct is preliminarily and permanently enjoined.

# COUNT II (Unfair Competition)

- 39. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference each allegation contained in Paragraphs 1 through 38 hereinabove and incorporate them, each and all herein by this reference
- 40. Defendants' wrongful acts of unfair competition consist of utilizing "Party Ain't Crunk" for the specific purpose of creating the false impression that Defendants and not Plaintiffs were composers and contributors to the song "Family Affair"
- 41. Defendants have by copying and unfair device, induced the general public to believe that they have the right to reproduce, distribute, publicly perform or in any way use compile or exploit, "Party Ain't Crunk."
- 42. Defendants have received and obtained substantial gains, profits, advantages and benefits which Plaintiffs rightfully deserve, by reason of their wrongful acts of unfair competition.
- 43. As a result of their wrongful acts of unfair competition Defendants have appropriated to themselves the value of the "Party Ain't Crunk" that Plaintiffs have acquired by virtue of their status as copyright claimants in that musical composition.
- 44. A natural, probable and foreseeable consequence of the Defendants' wrongful acts of unfair competition resulted in substantial deception to the general public.
- 45. Defendants' wrongful acts constitute unfair competition under the laws of the State of Michigan.
- 46. Plaintiffs are entitled to recover from Defendant monetary damages they suffered as a result Defendants' wrongful acts of unfair competition.

# COUNT III (Unjust Enrichment)

- 47. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference each allegation contained in Paragraphs 1 through 46 hereinabove and incorporate them, each and all herein by this reference.
- 48. Defendants have received and obtained substantial gains, advantages and benefits from their unauthorized use of the song, "Party Ain't Crunk."
- 49. It is inequitable and unjust for the Defendants to retain those gains, advantages and benefits.
- 50. Defendants have enriched themselves at the expense and to the detriment of the Plaintiffs and retained such benefit without compensating Plaintiffs for such use.
- 51. Defendants should not in equity and good conscious be permitted to retain the benefit that they have received as a result of their unlawful conduct.
- 52. As a result of Defendants' unjust enrichment, Plaintiffs are entitled to receive the reasonable value of the benefit they have received in an amount to be determined at trial, with applicable attorney's fees and costs.

WHERFORE, Plaintiffs pray for judgment against Defendants jointly and severally, as follows:

- 1. The Defendants and their respective officers, agents, servants, employees and attorneys and each of them, and all persons in active concert or participation with them be forthwith temporarily and permanently enjoined and restrained from:
  - manufacturing, distributing, selling or offering for sale songs for use by purchasers thereof to copy or otherwise infringe copyrighted songs owned by Plaintiffs;

- b) using songs to copy material owned and copyrighted by Plaintiffs;
- c) advertising or in any way representing that song may be used for the purpose of making copies of the song owned and copyrighted by Plaintiffs; and
- exhibiting or playing song copies made by Defendants, and each of them,
   songs owned and copyrighted by Plaintiffs.
- 2. That Defendants be required to pay to Plaintiffs such damages as Plaintiffs have sustained in consequence of Defendants' infringement of said copyright and said unfair practices and unfair competition and to account and pay in excess of \$3,000,000 for:
  - a) all gains, profits and advantages derived by Defendants by said trade practices and unfair competition; and
  - b) all gains, profits and advantages derived by Defendants by their infringement of Plaintiffs' copyright or such damages as to the court shall appear proper within the provisions of the copyrights statutes.
- 3. That Defendants be required to deliver up to be impounded during the pendency of this action all copies of said record entitled "Family Affair" in their possession or under their control and to deliver up for destruction all infringing copies and all plates, molds, and other matter for making such infringing copies.
- 4. That Defendants be adjudged to have infringed Plaintiff's copyrights in the recording of the single "Family Affair" which is a song on the album entitled "No More Drama."
- 5. That Defendants be adjudged to have infringed Plaintiff's copyrights in songs, which Plaintiffs prove at trial to have been sampled by Defendants;

6. The defendants be adjudged to have competed unfairly with Plaintiffs and

engaged in unfair competition in violation of Michigan laws;.

7. The Defendants be adjudged to have been unjustly enriched;

8. For damages suffered by Plaintiffs according to proof adduced at trial;

9. For the profits received by Defendants as a result of the acts and conduct of said

Defendants, alleged in this complaint, and for an accounting from Defendants, and each of the

Defendants to determine said profits in an amount of \$500,000 individually for the party's

infringement;

10. That Defendants be required to deliver to the United States Marshal to be

impounded during the pendency of this action all copies of copyrighted songs owned by

Plaintiffs, or portions thereof;

11. For costs of suit, including reasonable attorneys' fees, incurred herein; and

12. For such other further relief as to the Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: <u>Quy</u> 19, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory (I. Reed (P24750)

Attorney for Plaintiffs

GREGORY J. REED & ASSOCIATES, PC

1201 Bagley Avenue

Detroit, Michigan 48226

(313) 961-3580

### **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiffs, Leonard Jones and James E. White by their counsel, Gregory J. Reed & Associates, P.C. demand a jury trial in the instant action.

Dated: <u>august 19</u>, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory J. Roed (P24750

Attorney for Plaintiffs

GREGORY J. REED & ASSOCIATES

1201 Bagley Avenue Detroit, Michigan 48226

(313) 961-3580

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### EXHIBITS IN SUPPORT OF COMPLAINT FOR COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT, UNFAIR COMPETITION AND UNJUST ENRICHMENT/DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

- EXHIBIT A Copyright Registration for Benevolent Vol. I ["Party Ain't Crunk"]
- EXHIBIT B Copy of the envelope with a postage meter date stamped May 30, 2001 from Universal Music Group addressed to Jim White returning the recording of the musical composition "Party Ain't Crunk"
- EXHIBIT C Note from JoAnn at MCA Records, enclosed with the returned recording of the musical composition, "Party Ain't Crunk" indicating MCA is not accepting unsolicited material.
- EXHIBIT D Copy of CD insert of credits listed for the song "Family Affair"
- EXHIBIT E RIAA Gold and Platinum Search results for "No More Drama" CD

**EXHIBIT** A

### CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION



This Certificate issued under the seal of the Copyright Office in accordance with title 17, United States Code, attests that registration has been made for the work identified below. The information on this certificate has been made a part of the Copyright Office records.



REGISTRATION NUMBER

EFFECTIVE DATE OF REGISTRATION Hay 200

REGISTER OF COPYRIGHTS

DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE. IF YOU NEED MONESPACE, USE A SEPARATE CONTINUATION SHEET.

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DATE AND NATION OF FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS PARTICULAR WORK

2001

COPYRIGHT CLAIMANT(S) Name and address must be given even it the claimant is the same as the author given in space 2.V

E. ahlte 244 WILSKIRE Block 12-14/13 CA,90210

TRANSFER If the claimant(s) named here in space 4 are different from the author(s) named in space 2, give a brief statement of how the claimant(s) obtained ownership of the copyright.

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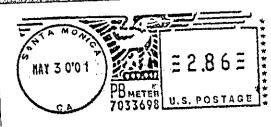
MORE ON BACK ➤ • Complete all applicable spaces (numbers 5.9) on the reverse side of this page See detailed instructions Sign the form at line 8

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Material Added to This Work. Give a brief, general statement of the material that has been added to this work and in v	vhich copyright is claimed.▼	
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**EXHIBIT B** 





UNIVER

M<sup>c</sup>Kaie #301

UNIVERSAL MUSIC GROUP 2220 COLORADO AVENUE SANTA MONICA CA 90404

Mr. Jim White JWE STUDIO 9244 Wilshire Boulevard Beverly Hills, CA 90210

**EXHIBIT C** 

Michael Miller Miller Miller Miller Miller Miller Miller Start Song.

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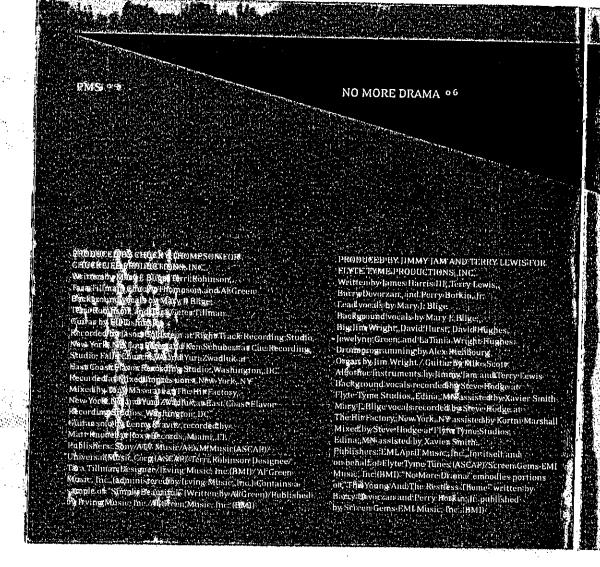
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**EXHIBIT D** 

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**EXHIBIT E** 



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CIVIL COVER SHEET COUNTY IN WHICH THIS ACTION AROSE; Wayne

44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required Iaw, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. I. (a) PLAINTIFFS **DEFENDANTS** Leonard Jones and James E Mil - 6018 Lary J. Blige, Andre Romell Young p/k/a Dr. Dre, Bruce Miller, Camara Kambon, Asiah Lewis, Luchana N. Lodge, Melvin Bradford, Michael Elizondo, Universal-MCA Music Publishing, et al. (b) County of Residence of First Listed County of Residence of First Listed Bergen NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVE Attorneys (If KnowMAGISTRATE JUDGE CAPEL, (C) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) Gregory J. Reed (P24750) JUDGE MARIANNE O. BATTANI Gregory J. Reed & Associates, PC, 1201 Bagley, Detroit, MI 48226 (313) 961-3580 III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place on "X" in One Box for Plaintiff II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only) (For Diversity Cases Only) and One Box for Defendant) DEF Incorporated or Principal Place [ 4 1 U.S. Government 3 Pederal Question Citizen of This State Plaintiff of Business In This State (U.S. Government Not a Party) 2 U.S. Government 4 Diversity Citizen of Another **2** 2 2 Incorporated and Principal **5** (Indicate Citizenship of Parties Defendant of Business In Another State in Item 111) Citizen or Subject of a 3 3 Foreign Nation Forekin Country IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only) CONTRACT TORTS FORFE ITURE/PENALTY BANKRUPTCY OTHER STATUTES 🗅 110 Insurance PERSONAL INJURY PERSONAL INJURY 610 Agriculture 1 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 400 State Reapportionment 120 Marine 31 0 Airplane 362 Personal Injury-620 Other Food & Drug ☐ 41 0 Antitrust 130 Miller Act 315 Airplane Product Med. Malpractice 625 Drug Related Seizure 423 Withdrawal 430 Banks and Banking 140 Negotiable Instrument Liability ☐ 365 Personal InVry -Product Lia listy 28 USC 157 of Property 21: 881 ☐ 450 Commerce/ICC 150 Recovery of 630 Liquor Laws Overpayment and Enforcement 460 Deportation 320 Assault Libel 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product And Slander RROPERTY RIGHTS 640 R.R. & Truck of Judament 470 Recketeer Influenced & ☐ 151 Medicare Act Corrupt Organizations ☐ 330 Federal Employers Llability 650 Airline Regs. 820 Copyrights ☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Liability 660 Occupational 810 Selective Service 830 Patent Student Loans 340 Marine PERSONAL PROPERTY Safety/Health ☐ 850 Securities/Com mod ties/ 840 Trademark (Excl. Veterans) 345 Marine Product □ 370 Other Fraud 690 Other Exchange ☐ 875 Customer Challenge 12 LISC 3410 153 Recovery of Overpayment Liability 371 Truth in Lending LABOR SOCIAL SECURITY of Veteran's Benefits 350 Motor Vehicle 380 Other Personal ☐ 160 Stockholders' Suits 891 Agricultural Acts 355 Motor Vehicle Property Damage 71 0 Feir Labor Standards 861 HIA (1 395ff) 190 Other Contract Product Liability ☐ 385 Property Damage ☐ 892 Economic Stabilization Act Act 862 Black Lung (923) ☐ 360 Other Personal 195 Contract Product Liability 893 Environmental Matters Product Liability 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations 863 DIVIC/DIVIVI (405(a)) 894 Energy Allocation Act **REAL PROPERTY CIVIL RIGHTS** PRISONER PETITIONS □ 864 SSID Title XVI □ 895 Freedom of 730 Labor/Momt, Reporting 865 RSI (405(g)) Information Act 210 Land Condemnation 441 Voting □ 51 0 Motions to Vecate & Disclosure Act 900 Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice FEDERAL TAX SUITS 220 Foreclosure 442 Employment Sentence 740 Railway Labor Act 230 Rent Lease & Electment 443 Housing/ Habeas Corpus: □ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff 240 Torts to Land Accommodations 790 Other Labor 530 General or Defendant) □ 950 Constitutionality of 245 Tort Product Liability 444 Welfare 535 Death Penalty Litigation State Statutes 290 All Other Real Property 440 Other Civil Rights 540 Mandamus & Other 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. 871 IRS-Third Party 890 Other Statutory Actions ☐ 550 Civil Rights Security Act 26 USC 7609 □ 555 Prison Condition (PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY) V. QRIGIN Appeal to Transferred from District another district 7 Judge from 4 Reinstated 5 (specify) Original Removed from Remanded from 6 Multi district Magistrate State Court **Appellate Court** Reopened VI: CAUSE OF ACTION (Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filling and write brief statement of cause. Do not cite jurisductional statutes unless diversity.) Copyright Infringement VII. REQUESTED IN **CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION** \$DEMAND CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: UNDER F.R.C.P. 23 COMPLAINT: X JURY DEMAND: (See VIII. RELATED CASE(S) instructions): DOCKET JUDGE NUMBER 8-25-04 SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

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SUANT TO LOCAL RULE 83.11 1. Is this a case that has been previously dismissed? Yes If yes, give the following information: Court: Case No.: Judge: \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Other than stated above, are there any pending or previously discontinued or dismissed companion cases in this or any other Yes court, including state court? (Companion cases are matters in which, it appears substantially similar evidence will be offered or the same or related parties are present and the cases arise out of the same transaction or occurrence.) If yes, give the following information: Court: Case No.: Judge:

Notes: